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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/774,576	02/01/2001	Seizo Miyazaki	Q62956	2515
7590	08/20/2004		EXAMINER	
SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN, MACPEAK & SEAS, PLLC 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, DC 20037-3202			SY, MARIANO ONG	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3683	

DATE MAILED: 08/20/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/774,576	MIYAZAKI, SEIZO
Examiner	Art Unit	
Mariano Sy	3683	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 June 2004.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-10, 13-16, 18 and 19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 1-10, 13, 14, 18 and 19 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 15 and 16 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. The amendment filed on June 21, 2004 has been received.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over MacLeod (U.S. Patent Number 6,204,996 B1) in view of Saigusa (U.S. Patent Number 5,882,121).

Re-claim 15 MacLeod disclosed, as shown in fig. 2, a bearing device comprising: an axis side member including a cylindrical part 66 with an inner ring 70a mounted externally, and an outward flange part 68 disposed on one end side in the axial direction; a housing 4, 54 including a ring part with an outer ring 64a mounted internally, and an outward flange part disposed on the other end part in the axial direction; a rolling bearing disposed between said axis side member and said housing and having an outside surface covered by said outward flange part of said axis side member; a sheet 85 covering a gap between the inner ring and outer ring and disposed externally on an endmost side of the other end part in the axial direction of the bearing device.

However MacLeod failed to disclose the sheet covering a gap between inner and outer ring and disposed externally on an extreme endmost side of the other end part in

the axial direction, the sheet being bonded wherein a detachable bonding force is lowerable when the bonded portion of the sheet is heated.

Saigusa teaches, as shown in fig. 4, the use of a sealing member 4A that is bonded by use of adhesive, not limited to a thermo-plastic adhesive material (see col. 6, lines 35-38), to the axial direction end surface of the outer ring of a bearing.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to the sealing member bonded by use of adhesive to the axial direction end surface of the outer ring of the bearing of MacLeod, in view of the teaching of Saigusa, is a matter of design choice with the same intended function of attaching the sealing member to the axial direction end surface of at least one of said inner and outer rings.

It is inherent that any adhesive joint will be detachable by a force that exceed the bonding force of the adhesive or the adhesive joint is detached when subject to certain level of heat depending upon the nature or type of adhesive employed.

4. Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over MacLeod in view of Saigusa as applied to claim 13 above, and further in view of Yazaki et al. (U.S. Patent Number 5,596,235).

Re-claim 16 MacLeod as modified failed to disclose the adhesive having a predetermined detachable bonding force which is lowerable when the adhesive is subject to an ultraviolet ray irradiation.

Yazaki et al. teaches the use of ultraviolet ray irradition on adhesive for curing or for detaching.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have merely utilized the known ultraviolet ray irradition on adhesive for detaching on the sealing member of MacLeod as modified, in view of the teaching of Yazaki et al., in order to ease removing of the sealing member from the roller bearing.

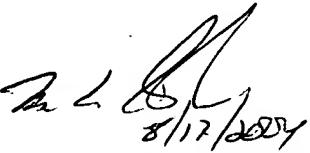
5. Claims 1-10, 13, 14, 18 and 19 are allowed.
6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mariano Sy whose telephone number is 703-308-3427. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jack Lavinder, can be reached on 703-308-3421. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

 M. Sy

August 13, 2004


8/17/2004
MATTHEW C. GRAHAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 310